

September 5, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madame Speaker, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Minority Leader Boehner:

Supporters of patent reform and the Coalition for Patent Fairness, an alliance of companies and associations in the technology, financial services, energy, chemical, manufacturing and media industries, applaud your leadership and commitment to the American worker in seeking to strengthen the U.S. patent system.

The effort to reform our patent laws and restore a sense of balance to the system so America can continue to lead the world in innovation has been a long one. After several years of study and debate, the House Judiciary Committee reported out H.R. 1908, the Patent Reform Act of 2007, by voice vote on July 18.

For the last several years, the chorus of those calling for reform has grown louder and clearer. Proponents of comprehensive patent reform include top legal scholars and economists, the Federal Trade Commission, the U.S. Solicitor General, the National Academy of Sciences, the Council on Foreign Relations, leading editorial boards and a wide array of businesses ranging from high-tech and financial services to traditional manufacturing.

The U.S. House of Representatives alone has conducted 21 hearings on issues related to our patent system since 2001. The current legislation is the end product of a series of bills sponsored by Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.), Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property, and Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas), Ranking Member on the Judiciary Committee, beginning in 2004.

This Congress, Rep. Berman and Rep. Smith refined the Patent Reform Act of 2005 to make the legislation stronger and more agreeable to a wider audience. They ultimately introduced this revised version as H.R. 1908 in April 2007.

Since the introduction of H.R. 1908, Chairman Conyers (D-Mich.) of the Judiciary Committee and other senior members of the Committee have signed on as cosponsors. This year alone, the Judiciary Committee has held two hearings and convened numerous working groups in order to address the concerns of groups such as biotechnology companies, universities and manufacturing industries. Numerous concessions have been made during the amendment process by Rep.

Berman and Rep. Smith in an effort to be fair and respect the substantive concerns of all parties. Yet with all of these efforts, there are still those who wish to derail much needed reform by continually seeking delays leading to endless re-examination instead of action.

During this debate, major editorial boards from around the country have weighed in and agreed the time for patent reform is now. *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Jose Mercury News* and *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* have all called on Congress to finally pass comprehensive reform this year.

Concurrent with legislative efforts, the U.S. Supreme Court took a large number of patent cases in the past two terms to correct lower courts' interpretations of patent law. Each of the Supreme Court's decisions has been consistent with proponents of patent reform who have urged the court to safeguard patent owners while ensuring patent rights are not abused. In one key case, members of the Court described the prior legal standard on patents as "gobbledygook" and "worse than meaningless."

Now, after years of study and compromise; of calls to action and careful examination; the time has come to act. Now that the Judiciary Committee has sent H.R. 1908 to the floor, the House of Representatives has the chance to stand up for America's leading innovators and restore balance to our patent system, allowing innovation to flourish unfettered by the current rules that degrade patent quality and encourage gaming of the system. Now is the time for action on the Patent Reform Act of 2007.

Cc: Members of the United States House of Representatives  
Members of the United States Senate

Sincerely,

**Adobe Systems Incorporated**  
(San Jose, CA)

**Avaya Inc.**  
(Basking Ridge, NJ)

**Agilent Technologies, Inc.**  
(Santa Clara, CA)

**Avid Technology**  
(Tewksbury, MA)

**Amazon.com**  
(Seattle, WA)

**Bank of America**  
(Charlotte, NC)

**Apple**  
(Cupertino, CA)

**Black Duck Software**  
(Waltham, MA)

**Applied Materials, Inc.**  
(Santa Clara, CA)

**Borealis Ventures**  
(Hanover, NH)

**Aruba Networks**  
(Sunnyvale, CA)

**Business Software Alliance**  
(Washington, DC)

**Atheros Communications, Inc.**  
(Santa Clara, CA)

**CA, Inc.**  
(Islandia, NY)

**Autodesk, Inc.**  
(San Rafael, CA)

**Cadence Design Systems**  
(San Jose, CA)

**Capital One**  
(McLean, VA)

**Charter Communications**  
(St. Louis, MO)

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(San Ramon, CA)

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**Computing Technology Industry Association**  
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**Goldman Sachs**  
(New York, NY)

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**IM Flash Technologies**  
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**Infineon Technologies North America Corp.**  
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**Information Technology Association of America**  
(Arlington, VA)

**Information Technology Industry Council**  
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**Internet Commerce Coalition**  
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**Kalido**  
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**Lenovo**  
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**SAS**  
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**Seagate Technology**  
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**Steton Technology Group**  
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**Symantec Corporation**  
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**Synopsys, Inc.**  
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**TechNet**  
(Palo Alto, CA)

**Time Warner**  
(New York, NY)

**V-Empower, Inc.**  
(Bowie, MD)

**VeriSign, Inc.**  
(Mountain View, CA)

**Viacom Inc.**  
(New York, NY)

**Victoria Chamber of Commerce**  
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**Visa U.S.A.**  
(San Francisco, CA)

**Wachovia Corporation**  
(Charlotte, NC)

**Wells Fargo & Co.**  
(San Francisco, CA)

**Western Digital Corporation**  
(Lake Forest, CA)

**Xilinx, Inc.**  
(San Jose, CA)